

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) A mounting structure for a damper, said damper having an upper portion and a lower portion, said upper portion being fixed to a vehicle body while said lower portion being connected to a suspension, wherein said mounting structure includes the vehicle body and a damper mounting portion, said damper mounting portion being secured to the body so as to mount the damper to the body, wherein the damper mounting portion includes a temporary fixing means having a locking projection that cooperates with and engages a locking bore in the vehicle body to temporarily fix the damper to the body from below the body, and wherein, after the damper has been temporarily fixed to the vehicle body with the temporary fixing means, the damper mounting portion and said vehicle body further cooperate to receive fasteners at bolt bores formed therein to fix the damper to the body, and wherein when said damper mounting portion and vehicle body are temporarily fixed together, their bolt bores are aligned with each other and ~~configured such that~~ the fasteners are installed in said mounting portion and said body from below said body.

3. (Currently Amended) The mounting structure according to claim 2, wherein the ~~mounting portion includes~~ locking projection is a hook-shaped locking projection, and the damper is temporarily fixed to the vehicle body by inserting the locking projection into ~~a~~ the locking bore formed in the vehicle body and rotating the damper to bring the locking projection into engagement with a locking surface of the vehicle body, said locking surface being disposed adjacent the locking bore.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method for mounting a damper to a vehicle, said damper comprising a mounting portion having a locking projection and a bolt bore, said vehicle comprising a vehicle body frame comprising a plurality of members cooperating to provide a closed section, said plurality of members including a lower member, said lower member having an upper surface, a lower surface, and defining an opening through which said damper extends, said lower member further defining a locking bore and a bolt bore, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) inserting said damper into said opening from below;
- (b) aligning said locking projection with said locking bore;
- (c) inserting said locking projection through said locking bore; and,
- (d) rotating said damper such that said locking projection moves relative to said locking bore and is disposed adjacent said lower member upper surface and out of alignment with said locking bore to temporarily secure the damper to said vehicle body frame while simultaneously moving said mounting portion bolt bore into

alignment with said lower member bolt bore; and,

(e) inserting a bolt through said aligned bolt bores to secure the damper to the vehicle body frame.

6 - 13 (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The combination according to claim 2, wherein the vehicle body includes a lower wall, an upper wall, and a sidewall that are secured to one another so as to define a closed section with an interior space, said lower wall having an opening through which an upper portion of the damper is inserted into said interior space and ~~a plurality of bores surrounding said opening for receipt of said temporary fixing means and said fasteners~~said locking bore and said bolt bore surrounding said opening, each of said bores on said lower wall being spaced inwardly from said sidewall so as to be within said closed section, and wherein said mounting portion is an upper spring seat of the damper.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein steps (a) – (e) are performed sequentially.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein, in step (e), the bolt is inserted upwardly from below said vehicle body frame.

17. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the damper includes an upper portion, a lower portion, and wherein the mounting portion is disposed between said

upper and lower portions, and wherein, in step (a) the damper is inserted into the opening from below such that said damper upper portion projects through said lower member opening and is disposed above said lower member while said mounting portion is abutting the lower surface of the lower member.